Christian World

THE

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Christian Union.

"THE LOVE OF CHRIST CONSTRAINETH US."

VOLUME III.

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INTRODUCTION.

The present Volume contains the record of the Society's operations during the third year of its existence. It has been a year of more than ordinary interest in several respects. The labors of the Society were considerably enlarged during that period, both at home and abroad; and the hearts of the Officers and Directors were cheered with more than ordinary tokens of the Divine blessing upon their plans and efforts. The Cause in whose behalf we labor evidently gained ground in the affections and sympathies of the Churches. The number of capable men, of different nations, who presented themselves to the Board for employment as Missionaries, was greater than in any former year; and a larger amount of means for their support was placed at the disposal of the Board by the Churches. For this we desire to be duly grateful. Some progress has certainly been made in the work of enlightening our evangelical Protestants in regard to the work to be done for the salvation of Romanists: the nature of that work, its importance, and its practicability. There is evidently a growing interest in the churches in behalf of the Cause which the American and Foreign Christian Union is seeking to promote.

In some respects, the prospects of evangelical effort in France have been growing darker within the last year or two; but still the "Word of God is not bound" even in that country. It has been our aim to give our readers a correct, though brief, account of the changes which the position of the evangelical Cause underwent in that land in consequence of the *Coup d'Etat* of December 2d, 1851, as well as of the exertions of our French brethren to meet the demands of the times.

We have endeavored to ascertain and appreciate the indications that the Protestantism of Great Britain has received a fresh impulse from the audacious course of the Pope in regard to that country. The effects of that impulse upon the late elections in both Great Britain and Ireland will be found narrated as amply as our pages would allow. We have endeavored to place before our readers the manifestations of her ancient spirit and character which Rome has taken care to make, both in the Old World and the New. In this, we trust our labor has not been in vain, through GOD'S blessing.

In a word, it has been our desire to relate the progress and prospects of a pure Christianity in contradistinction to a corrupt one, in all parts of the World, as the readers of our Magazine will have well perceived.

We conclude this brief introductory notice of our Third Volume by assuring our readers that the experiences of another year have served to deepen the interest we feel in the Cause which this Periodical is designed to advocate, and to increase our confidence in the wisdom and energy with which the affairs of the Society, whose Organ it is, are conducted.

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